

Welcome Aboard!



A Handbook for Members of the
Department of Georgia
Marine Corps League

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WHAT IS THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE?

The League is the only Federally Chartered, Marine Corps related veterans organization in the country. The League was organized by then-Commandant John A. LeJeune in 1923. In 1937, Congress nationally chartered the League. It is a not-for-profit organization within the provisions of the Internal Revenue Service Code 501(c) (4), with a special group exemption letter which allows for contributions to the Marine Corps League, its Auxiliary and subsidiary units, to be tax deductible by the donor. The League is presided over by an elected Commandant and officers, with a full-time Executive Director and staff located in Virginia.

The League's Objectives:

Among the purposes for which the Marine Corps League was founded are:

- To preserve the traditions and to promote the interests of the United States Marine Corps;
- To band those who are now serving in the Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service together in fellowship that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy;
- To fit its members for duties of citizenship and to encourage them to serve as ably as citizens as they have served the Nation under arms;
- To hold sacred the history and memory of the

veterans who have given their lives to the Nation;

To foster love for the principles which they have supported by blood and valor since the founding of the Republic;

To maintain true allegiance to American institutions;

To create a bond of comradeship between those in the service and those who have returned to civilian life;

To aid voluntarily and to render assistance to all Marines and FMF Corpsmen and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen as well as to their spouses, orphans, and parents;

To perpetuate the history of the U.S. Marine Corps and, by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

We also try to assist, wherever possible, the active and reserve establishments in order to let them devote more of their time and attention to the preparation for duties in the national interest. Regardless of the rank a member may have held while on active or reserve duty, all members of the League are considered to be of equal rank – that of “United States Marine”.

Membership Categories There are 3 classes of detachment members:

Regular Member: Anyone who is serving or has served at least 90 days in the Marine Corps or

Marine Corps Reserve, or as a US Navy Corpsman with the FMF for 90 or more days, and received an Honorable Discharge. Dues are set by the detachment and include Department and National Dues per year, unless you elect to become a Life Member. Life Membership is payable on a one time basis and covers all dues. The amount depends upon the age of the member.

Associate Member: One who has reached enlistment age, does not qualify to be a Regular Member, but espouses the principles and purposes of the MCL. Dues are the same as for Members. Associate Members may not vote on membership, election of officers nor hold elective office. Associate Members may also become Life Members.

Honorary Member: One who has been of extraordinary service to the Nation, Community, Marine Corps, or Marine Corps League.

A member may join more than one Detachment, becoming a **Dual Member**, and may hold office in more than one Detachment, but will only have one vote in National MCL business and elections.

The Organization's Levels

The Marine Corps League is a national organization of over 75,000 members and, like the Marine Corps, there are levels of the organization that enable smaller unit leadership. The levels that are set forth in the Bylaws

and Administrative Procedures of the League are:

National - U.S., plus overseas members

Division - Ten regional groupings of Departments. Georgia is in the Southeast Division.

Department - The state level organization. Your Detachment is in the Department of Georgia.

District - Due to Georgia's large area, there are groupings of Detachments in Districts to facilitate training, communications and sharing of ideas.

Detachment - The "local" level unit.

The Detachment of which you are a member may organize into smaller units. This will depend upon the unit, its size, geographical dispersion, and the desires of the Detachment's elected officers to best communicate with and serve its members.

BYLAWS

Although the League is a military veterans' organization, it is democratically run. The League operates under a set of National Bylaws and Administrative Procedures (APs) that establish how the League is organized and operates. The National Bylaws and APs may be amended by majority vote of the represented members. The amendment process is open to all members, following the procedure set forth in the bylaws themselves. The National Bylaws and APs have precedence over all Department and Detachment

Bylaws and APs.

The Department also has its own Bylaws and APs. Your Detachment probably has its own Bylaws. The National and Department Bylaws and APs are posted on their respective websites.

The League is a non-political body. As such, the League and members identifying themselves as members of the League **MUST NOT** support or appear to support political candidates or parties. This includes the wearing of MCL uniforms at political events. Every member, however, is encouraged to participate in the American political process as an individual.

THE DETACHMENT

Detachment Meetings

Detachment meetings are conducted in accordance with the MCL Ritual Manual. Doing so means that your attendance at the meeting of any Detachment will be familiar. The conduct of meetings shall be governed by the League Bylaws and Administrative Procedures. The current Roberts Rules of Order will also be used. However, the Bylaws and APs will have precedence over Roberts Rules of Order.

In Detachment meetings, there is to be **NO** discussion of politics or religion. If such a discussion begins, the Commandant or Sergeant-at-Arms will immediately call for it to cease.

Regardless of the rank held in military service, that rank will not be used or referred to within League meetings or functions. Every Regular Member in the Marine Corps League has earned the rank of “Marine”, and that is rank enough.

Detachment Officers

The Detachment has two classes of officers, Elected and Appointed. Elected Officers can serve up to two consecutive one-year terms in office unless the Detachment Bylaws provide differently. Appointed Officers serve at the pleasure of the Commandant and Board of Trustees. All Appointed Officers should tender their resignation at the end of their term. They may be reappointed, and there are no term limits for Appointed Officers.

The officers and their duties are:

Elected

Commandant - Presides at all Detachment meetings, serves as advisor to all committees and is in direct charge of all functions of the Detachment.

Sr. Vice Commandant - Assists the Commandant and acts in his/her behalf during the absence or illness of the Commandant.

Jr. Vice Commandant (s) - Assumes the responsibilities of the Commandant or the Sr. Vice Commandant if either or both are not available. Acts as Membership Chairman and is responsible for the

growth of the Detachment.

Judge Advocate - Interprets the By-Laws of the Detachment, Department, and National Marine Corps League. Also ensures that meetings are run in accordance with the Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order.

Appointed

Adjutant - Keeps a complete record of all meetings, typewritten or neatly by hand, in a ledger or log. Keeps records of membership and handles all transmittals. Keeps necessary Corporate Minutes to satisfy state legal requirements.

Paymaster - Serves as Treasurer of the Detachment and keeps an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements of the Detachment. Also prepares and files the required tax returns and corporate registration and renewal with the state.

Chaplain - Informs the membership of any member or member's family that is ill or in distress and visits same, if possible, or asks other members to do so. Maintains a prayer list of members and family in sickness or distress. Reports the death of any member to the Detachment, Department, and National on the appropriate form.

Sergeant-at-Arms - Responsible for setting up the premises for all meetings. Shall preserve order at all meetings and perform such other duties as are

required by the Commandant.

Junior Past Commandant - This officer is the immediate past Commandant and serves to provide guidance and counsel to the Detachment Commandant and other officers.

Such other Appointed Officers or committee chairs as the Commandant may desire. These may include such positions as Veterans' Service Officer, Historian, Newsletter Editor, Color Guard Commander, Toys for Tots Chairman, Youth Programs Chairman, Ships Store Chairman, Public Relations/Information Officer, etc.

Committees

Detachments may have several committees that would welcome your participation. Ad hoc committees may be an Audit Committee, a Nominating Committee, a Marine Corps Birthday Celebration Committee, and a Toys for Tots Committee. There is also a need for members to help in a myriad of activities that may be one-time affairs, such as hosting a Department convention, restoring historical artifacts, or on-going activities, such as the preparation of the monthly newsletter, setting up for meetings, etc.

Detachment Communications

Communications up, down, and across a Detachment are essential to keeping members involved and to accomplish the mission of the League. Your

Detachment may have a newsletter, either via email or USPS, a website, a Facebook page, etc. Find out how the Detachment communicates and make sure that you are “getting the word”. If you offer to help with the gathering and publishing of the news, you will quickly meet the members, become aware of your Detachment's activities, and make new friends.

Detachment Activities

Color Guard/Honor Guard. Many Detachments have a Color Guard or Honor Guard that perform functions in their community. The Undress uniform, short or long sleeve, as appropriate, is normally worn by the Guard members. If weapons are needed, they may be obtained through the Civilian Marksmanship Program. The National MCL HQ should be involved as they can be of invaluable assistance in obtaining the weapons.

Fallen Marine Program. The Fallen Marine Program is one of the most heartfelt and rewarding programs of the League. When an honorably discharged, reserve, or active duty Marine passes away, a Detachment participating in the Fallen Marine Program will attend the visitation or funeral and present the primary next of kin, usually the spouse, with an embossed MCL certificate that recognizes the deceased Marine's service to the Nation and Corps. Often, a pin is presented to the spouse. The presentation of the Certificate is often unexpected by the family and the fact that Marines who may not have known the

deceased, but are fellow Marines, and come to the ceremony to show appreciation and respect for his or her service is one of those moments that makes one proud to have participated.

Funeral Details. When a Marine with a discharge under honorable conditions dies, the funeral home should notify USMC Casualty Branch to request funeral honors. At the minimum, the Marine Corps will provide three Marines; two to fold the flag and present it to the primary next of kin, and one to play Taps. Depending upon the schedule, distance, and commitments, the Marine Corps may also provide an Honor Guard to provide the rifle volleys. Some Detachments have an Honor Guard to provide the rifle volleys if the active duty establishment is unable to do so.

In the case of the death of an active duty Marine, sometimes it is difficult for active and/or reserve organizations to provide for casket vigils and all the other obligations required. In these cases, the League may request that they be allowed to stand the casket vigil until the services are performed.

Hospital/Nursing Home Visits. Many times a Marine finds himself in a hospital or nursing home with no caring relatives nearby. For a fellow Marine from the League to pay a visit, it is an absolute joy for the Marine. With our common history and heritage, we can always communicate about Marine Corps “things”. The Leaguer leaves more knowledgeable about the Corps;

the visited Marine is left knowing that he is not being left behind. The hospital/nursing home staff is always in awe of the bond that Marines, even from vastly differently generations, have. It is our hallmark and one that needs to be kept alive. Remember, you may be one of those in the hospital or nursing home some day.

Assisting other Veterans. Some members have difficulty driving or getting transportation to doctor's appointments, VA Clinics or Medical Centers, etc. Having someone who can get them safely to and from appointments or taking them to a store to buy necessities is a recognition of their service to our Nation and is greatly appreciated.

In this regard, the League does not have a program for individuals to become certified Veterans Service Officers. Unless you or someone in your Detachment has been certified by the VA to act in this capacity, do not assist a member in filling out or completing forms for veterans benefits. Incorrect completion can lead to claims against the helping individual or Detachment.

Widows and Orphans. One of the Mission Statements of the League is “Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen, and to their widows and orphans”. As a League member, you should be aware of the widows and orphans of Marine in your area and help them when you can. For older widows on a limited budget, for a Leaguer to come by and cut the grass or clean the

gutters not only means a great deal, it may save her enough money to buy food or fuel. She may also have felt a part of the Corps through her husband's service, and would enjoy being invited to Birthday celebrations, etc.

Social Events. Some Detachments have regular or annual social events where spouses or families are invited. These may be breakfasts or dinners at local restaurants, picnics, Family Days, etc. It provides a way for our spouses to meet each other, “commiserate” in having married a Marine, but more importantly, to bond not only the Marines but also the families into a cohesive unit.

“Care” Packages. Several Detachments send “care” packages to deployed Marines. If you or your Detachment are interested in doing this, contact the Department Commandant (through the chain of command) and find the individuals that can help you.

Youth Activities

Detachments are constantly looking for programs that will assist local youngsters and provide guidance and training in physical, moral and patriotic matters. Some of the League's youth activities are:

Young Marines of the Marine Corps League. The MCL sponsors Young Marine units around the country. The Young Marines are an organization for young boys and girls from age 8 through high school. The Young Marines organization, which is a subsidiary of the

Marine Corps League, teaches discipline, citizenship, history, and service to others and is led by Marines and other adults who wish to serve. Young Marines are always in need of adult volunteers, who must apply and pass a background investigation to register and serve. Those who have been adult volunteers with the Young Marines often remark on the worthwhile experiences that they have had. Many Young Marines credit their experience in a unit with their success in later life.

Toys For Tots. League members are heavily involved in the Toys for Tots program. Where there is no local Marine Reserve unit present, many Detachments are the local community organization that sponsors Toys for Tots in their community and area. This is one of the Detachment's primary activities. There is always a need for more volunteers to help with the effort.

MCL Certificates to Eagle Scouts. The Marine Corp League has a certificate that can be given at an Honors Night for Eagle Scouts. The personal presentation of a Certificate to a newly minted Eagle Scout is a moment that will be remembered by the Scout and his family, and one that reinforces that fact that Marines value the traits and traditions that have made America great.

Certificates and Ribbons to JROTC cadets. There are 240 Junior ROTC Units in high schools in the State of Georgia, 14 of which are Marine Corps JROTC Units. To attend an Awards Night and present an award to a

deserving cadet, regardless of the service sponsoring the Unit, will open your eyes to a group of squared-away, enthusiastic, physically fit, sharply dressed group of teenagers. It often has a greater impact on the MCL presenter than upon the cadet. It is also an occasion when you may meet a parent who also served in the Marines or as a Corpsman, and who is unaware of the League. Thus, this activity may both honor a young cadet and recruit new members for your Detachment.

The Marine Corps Youth Physical Fitness Program. The YPF Program is provided free of charge to schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. The purpose is to get youngsters physically active and to set goals for improvement. There are three “measurement” days during the school year at which each child performs five exercises - push-ups, sit-ups, standing long jump, shuttle run, and pull-up. They are graded on a sliding scale depending upon their age and receive a full-color certificate upon completing the year. Detachments can introduce the program to the schools/organizations and assist in the scoring and record keeping.

Flag Etiquette. Presentations may be made to schools on the proper display, handling and respect for the National Colors every year. The number of people in each presentation may vary, but at least three are needed for each presentation. This has proven to be a very valuable use of our talents in the communities that we serve, as it positively impacts area youth and

gives them a positive first impression of patriotism, honoring our Nation's traditions and the Marine Corps.

Detachment Awards

The Detachment Commandant has the latitude to make several awards. These may range from a certificate to ribbons and medallions. The highest award at the Detachment level is the **Detachment Marine of the Year**, which is awarded to one member each year. The member recruiting the largest number of new members each year may also be eligible for the **Detachment Recruiter of the Year**.

Other Detachment Activities

Several Detachments have either formal or informal social gatherings. One Georgia Detachment has a dinner with spouses at a different local restaurant once a month. The spouses make friends who have the same "burden" - a Marine for a spouse. They look forward to going out and thus keep the MCL members active in their activities. Also, when support for a local MCL project is needed, the restaurant becomes a source for support. Some of the restaurants will call to encourage the Detachments to "come back soon".

Other Detachments have a once-a-month breakfast at a local restaurant just to meet on a social basis and get to know each other.

Organized picnics or Family Days are also held on an

annual basis by a number of Detachments.

Find out if your Detachment has a social event and participate. You will learn interesting things about your fellow members, and they will learn about you. It's all a part of the continuing Marine process of bonding.

Recruiting. One of the key activities that all members can participate in, regardless of when you served, length of service, rank, etc., is the recruiting of fellow Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and friends of the Marine Corps, into the Marine Corps League. We have found that such simple things as putting a Marine Corps or Marine Corps League emblem on your car, wearing some form of the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor on a cap or shirt, or a Marine belt buckle will get a response from a fellow Marine. Encourage them to join the League, come to meetings, and join fellow Marines in recognizing their great heritage as Marines. Now that you have honorably earned the title, "United States Marine", have the opportunity to be with other members of the world's most elite military group. Try to carry an application form and be ready to hand it out to those Marines you meet. Some of our best members have been "recruited" by sticking a MCL application and information on meetings under the wiper blade of a car with a Marine Corps sticker or license plate.

Detachment Trips. Detachments or groupings of Detachments can take trips to visit areas of interest.

Detachments may contact Parris Island and reserve a slot for a special three-day, two-night visit. MCL Detachments get their own D.I. to escort them around the base, observe training, and it culminates in the Graduation Parade.

Other trips that Detachments have taken are to the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, and the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning.

MCL Auxiliary.

Spouses, parents, grandparents, and other relatives of Marines are eligible to join the Marine Corps Auxiliary, which supports and assists the Marine Corps League. The MCL Auxiliary is a subsidiary of the National Marine Corps League. The MCLA has its own officers and organization. Ask if your Detachment has an MCLA unit.

Military Order of Devil Dogs.

The Military Order of Devil Dogs (MODD) is the fun and honor society of MCL members in good standing that supports charitable work. One of its benefits is the fellowship among the members of different MCL Detachments. Membership is open to all MCL members who have served a year in good standing and that are active in their Detachment's activities. Members usually join and are "initiated" at Devil Dog Growls (meetings) throughout the year.

Grievances and Discipline.

There is a well-defined and published procedure for handling grievances and violations of the Bylaws or oath of membership. As formal hearings are time-consuming and expensive, it is best to resolve these by mediation at the local level if possible. However, if mediation does not work, then a grievance or charge may be filed. A hearing will be called by the Department in procedures spelled out in the National Bylaws. The hearing board results may range from a resolution of a grievance to suspension or expulsion of a member.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA

Officers

The Elected and Appointed Officers at the Department level are similar to the Detachment's officers. However, at the Department level, there will be special staff officers who have experience in some area that can be a resource to Detachments that are looking at doing something in that area. For example, if your Detachment wants to learn more about sending "Care" packages to deployed Marines, the Department can put you in touch with someone who has successfully done it. This makes the Department and your Detachment much more efficient as no one has to reinvent the wheel.

Department Committees

Again, the Department's committees mirror the Detachments with some minor exceptions. The standing committees are: the Bylaws Committee, the Convention Committee, the Awards Committee, and an Audit Committee.

Department Communications

Newsletter. A Department newsletter is compiled quarterly and sent electronically to all Detachment Commandants for dissemination to their members. The newsletter has information submitted from each of the Detachments as well as the Department Officers and also includes information of future meetings and events in which the Department and its members will be participating. You should read the Department newsletter to see what other Detachments are doing and gain ideas on what you might be able to do to help accomplish the mission of the League.

Website. The Department website has current information on activities, Department Bylaws and APs, minutes from past meetings, and information on upcoming meetings, conferences, and conventions.

Department Awards and Competitions

The Department has two highly coveted individual awards and two equally prestigious group awards. The two individual awards are the **Department Marine of the Year** and the **Department Recruiter of the Year**.

The Department Marine of the Year is awarded to one individual who is nominated by his/her Detachment and is selected by past Department MOYs as the “best of the best”. The award is presented at the Department Convention's Banquet.

The Department Recruiter of the Year is presented to the individual member within the Department who recruited the most new members from April 1st of the previous year through March 31st of the current year.

At the Department Banquet, the two group awards are also presented. The first is the **Glaser Burkhardt Award**. Glaser “Ted” Burkhardt was a founding member of the LtCol Jimmie Dyess Detachment in Augusta and a stalwart of the Department. A career Marine, he received the Silver Star and Bronze Star for his actions on Saipan and Iwo Jima. The award is given to the Detachment with the greatest percentage in net membership growth from April 1st of the previous year through March 31st of the current year.

The other group award is **The Grits Bowl**. The Grits Bowl is emblematic of the friendly yet fierce rivalry between the Departments of Alabama and Georgia. The Detachment with the highest percentage growth in net membership is awarded the Bowl at **BOTH** Department Conventions by the losing Department Commandant. This award has resulted in membership growth in both Departments on a continuing basis and

a great working relationship between the two on matters far exceeding membership growth.

Active Duty and Reserve Marine Units in Georgia

There are active duty Marine Units in four locations in Georgia. Albany is home to the the Marine Corps Logistics Base and Logistics Command. Kings Bay has a sizable contingent at the Navy Submarine Base. At Ft. Benning, the Marine Detachment oversees and trains Marine armor, parachute and Ranger training. Detailed Marine Corps Comm-Elect is overseen by the Marine Detachment at Ft. Gordon. Atlanta is home to Recruiting Station - Atlanta.

There are USMC Reserve Units in Marietta, Smyrna, Warner Robins, Augusta, Albany, Forest Park, and Savannah.

Recruiting Sub-Stations

Recruiting Sub-Stations are currently located in Albany, Athens, Atlanta, Augusta, Brunswick, Canton, College Park, Columbus, Dalton, Douglasville, Duluth, Gainesville, Jonesboro, Kennesaw, Macon, Savannah, Statesboro, Stone Mountain, Valdosta, and Warner Robins.

These Recruiters are hard-working young Marines who are looking for quality young men and women to join our Corps. If you know of some one that you think would be a great Marine, the Recruiters would

welcome your call. The Detachments can also reward these young Marines by including them in Detachment activities and treating the Recruiter and spouse to a Detachment dinner or special occasion.

CONVENTIONS AND STAFF MEETINGS

Attending a convention or conference is a great way to learn more about the League, its activities, and people to contact. If possible, it is recommended that you try to attend a convention and gain knowledge about your League. These are the conventions, conferences, and meetings available to all members:

Department of Georgia - The Department of Georgia has a convention of its membership in May of each year. The site will be hosted by Detachment locations throughout the state. The Convention is a great way to meet fellow Marines from around the state and even run into old comrades that you served with in the past. It is also the way to get advanced in the Military Order of the Devil Dogs, if you are interested in that aspect of MCL lore. Additionally, the Department holds three Quarterly Staff Meetings during the year in the quarters that the Convention is not held. Department business is conducted, decisions affecting the Department is made, much information is given out, and training sessions for Detachment Officers are often held.

Southeast Division - The Southeastern Division holds a

conference each year in March. This convention's location will also vary depending upon the Detachment and Department hosting the convention.

National - There is an annual National Convention in August of every year. The National MCL tries to move the sites around the country so everyone has the opportunity to attend a national convention.

There is also a National Mid-Winter Conference held in the Washington D.C. Area each February. This is a very informative meeting that covers all of the activities of the League in a shorter period of time than the Convention.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The National Marine Corps League has many activities and competitions available to its Detachments and members. Here are some of them:

Americanism Competition - Awards are made to Detachments at the National Convention for the top three Americanism scrapbooks in each of three categories - up to 50 Members, 51 - 100 Members, and over 100 Members. The scrapbooks contain pictures, articles, and narratives on activities that the Detachment has participated in during the past year. All Detachments who enter a scrapbook receive an Americanism certificate.

Newsletter Competition - Plaques are given at the National Convention to the top three Detachment

newsletters in each of the three categories .

Certificates are given to all Detachments who enter.

Also, suggestions on what makes a good newsletter are on the Newsletter web page at the National MCL website - www.MCLeague.com.

Marksmanship Competition - The League sponsors a National postal match for both individual and team competition, in both the service pistol and service rifle categories. The courses of fire, allowable weapons, and targets are described on the Marksmanship web page at the national MCL website - www.MCLeague.com.

Marine for Life Program - The “M4L” program is sponsored and administered by HQMC and is designed to help Marines leaving active duty to find employment in the communities to which they are returning. League members can register to assist these Marines or to line up employers to hire veterans. To learn more, go to www.MarineForLife.org .

VAVS “Competition” - The Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service was founded to allow volunteers to augment the staff at VA hospitals and clinics. There is a short training session required to be registered, but the hours that are volunteered by members of organizations like the League are tallied and awards made. Detachment awards are made to the top three Detachments in each of the three categories above and to the top Departments as well. The volunteers, once trained, must have their affiliation to the League noted

to the Medical Center or Clinic which they serve. Although awards are given to the top units, this is one where everybody wins.

Semper Fi Store - The Semper Fi Store carries not only MCL uniforms and accessories, but a wide range of Marine Corps-related items. You can browse through their items online through the National MCL website (web address is on the inside back cover). Items may be purchased by telephone (1-800-MCL-1775) or through the website.

MCL SUBSIDIARIES

Marines Helping Marines - The Marines Helping Marines began when some MCL Members from Maryland went to Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Army Hospital to visit injured Marines returning from Iraq. When the Leaguers discovered that the Marines and their families needed items that were neither covered nor available through normal military channels, they began raising funds to assist the Marines and families. This has grown into a 501(c)(3) corporation that has volunteer representatives at the two hospitals above, plus Balboa Naval Hospital, Brooke Army Medical Center, and the Wounded Warrior Regiment at Camp LeJeune/Camp Pendleton. The web address is inside the back cover.

MCL Foundation - The MCL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) subsidiary of the League. The Foundation distributes

the funds for the Scholarship program and also makes emergency grants up to \$750 to Marines in need and their families. Application for such a grant normally goes through the Detachment Commandant. The web address is inside the back cover.

United States Marines Youth Foundation - The Youth Foundation is a non-profit that sponsors physical fitness activities for young Americans. There are three main programs of the Foundation. They are:

National Youth Physical Fitness Program - A program to encourage youngsters from K-12 to participate in physical fitness. Certificates are given free-of-charge for each grade level and manuals on how to conduct the program are available for interested schools and organizations.

National High School Physical Fitness Program - A program of competitive fitness with regional and national meets. This is open for both boys and girls and also for MCJROTC Units.

Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence Program - Certificates are sent to deserving high school band members that are nominated by their band directors.

Military Order of Devil Dogs - The Devil Dogs are the fun and honor society of the Marine Corps League. Membership is limited to Regular Members who have been in the League at least one year, have been active

in Detachment activities, are recommended by their Detachment Commandant, and are voted into membership by their Pound.

Two other subsidiary organizations previously covered are the **Young Marines** and the **Marine Corps League Auxiliary**.

MCL MEMBER BENEFITS AND DISCOUNTS

Membership in the Marine Corps League entitles you to several discount and group insurance programs. For up-to-date information on the plans available, call the Marine Corps League National Headquarters at 1-800-625-1775 or visit their website at www.MCLeague.com.

Semper Fi Magazine - This full-color magazine comes out every two months and covers current Marine Corps news and articles as well as information on the League. It is considered by many as the premier veterans organization magazine.

Scholarships - The League provides scholarship assistance to the spouses, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of MCL or MCLA members that are enrolled in an undergraduate program or technical school. Members requiring rehabilitation training not covered by government programs are also eligible to apply. Applications are found on the MCL website and are due each year by 1 JULY.

Legislative Committee - A committee keeps track of

proposed legislation that may affect Marines and veterans and visits key members of the U.S. Congress to express the views of the League.

Some of the other benefits as of this writing are listed below and can be explored in detail at MCLeague.com.

- Health/Life Insurance
- Federal Credit Union Membership
- Auto and Other Insurance
- MCL Logo Checks
- ID Theft Protection

MARINE MILITARY EXPOS

The Marine Corps League co-sponsors three expositions of military equipment each year. These Expos are Marine West, held at Camp Pendleton in February; Marine East, held at Camp LeJeune in April; and Modern Day Marine, which is held at Quantico in September. Each Expo provides Marines of all ranks the opportunity to see what equipment is available and being developed. It also allows vendors and developers to talk with those using and needing the items. These Expos have proven very popular with all hands. League members are welcome to attend and particularly to provide information about the League to active duty personnel and vendors alike. Look in your issues of ***Semper Fi*** magazine for dates and more details.

MARINE WEEK

Every year, the Marine Corps selects one major U.S. city in which to hold a week-long exhibition of Marines and their capabilities. It usually features the Silent Drill Platoon, the Drum and Bugle Corps, USMC aircraft, martial arts demonstrations, and much, much more. The Corps does not have the manpower available to do the detailed planning and work that must be done on the local level for the year leading up to the event. The local League Detachments and Department is called upon to provide much of the heavy lifting required to pull this major effort off in a professional manner.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

The National Marine Corps League has many committees that help in the functioning of the League. While some are dedicated to National Activities (Bylaws, Uniform, Convention, etc.), there are also Committees that can provide much needed advice and assistance to the Detachments, like the Homeless Veterans Committee, POW/MIA Committee, YPF Committee, Boy Scout Committee, Professional Development Committee, etc.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE UNIFORMS

Uniforms: Uniforms are **NOT REQUIRED** to be a member of the MCL or a Detachment. You may wish to buy authorized uniform parts incrementally to wear to activities and, if you desire to participate in Color Guard or other such activities in which the Marine Corps is best represented by those in uniform, one may be required. However, you should start out slowly and make sure that you have the time as well as the desire to participate fully, and therefore justify the expenditures that are involved with uniforms. Please remember that this is an organization of Marines and, no more than you would have modified the USMC uniform “because you wanted to”, you are not free to modify the MCL uniforms, either.

Authorized MCL Uniforms: There is an official Uniform Code of the MCL, which can be accessed online at <http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/index.php> and is located in the Main Menu portion on the left hand side. It defines the authorized uniforms that are approved by the National MCL and the Marine Corps itself. An excerpt from the Preface states: “Because many features about the these uniforms clearly resemble United States Marine Corps uniforms, it is very likely that an unmindful public may see that we are the **Marines**; and when today’s Marines see us wearing uniforms that are a likeness to their own, they will be seeing us as **one of their own**. Our appearance reflects upon the Marine Corps and Marines everywhere, and we should be ever aware of that responsibility. Uniforms prescribed in this Uniform Code are considered appropriate to preserve the respect and dignity of the

Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps.” A description of each uniform can be found below. Some of the uniform items can be purchased locally, some through the Detachment, and others should be ordered through Marine Corps Exchange System.

Cover. The minimum uniform item worn by members to be considered “in uniform” is the standard MCL Red cover, or “fore-and-aft” cover. The only insignia authorized for wear on the MCL covers is the solid gold Marine Corps Emblem, or in the case of Associate Members, the MCL “Sunburst” emblem, worn on the left side of the cover. The Devil Dog patch, if authorized, will be worn on the right side. The Department or Detachment identification strips or embroidering will be centered on the right side. If the “LIFE” strip is worn, it will be to the rear of the right side. The “LIFE MEMBER” strip will be worn the same as the identification strips are worn, and should be worn above all other strips. **NO PINS OR ORNAMENTS OF ANY OTHER DESCRIPTION ARE TO BE WORN ON THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE COVER**

Male Uniforms

I. Undress Uniform

Cover, MCL Fore-and-aft, with Devil Dog Patch when authorized.

Shirts:

EITHER (Long-Sleeve)

White long-sleeve shirt, military crease (Airline Pilot style, with two (2) pockets with button-down flaps and shoulder epaulets)

OR (Short-Sleeve)

White short-sleeve shirt, open collar, military crease (Airline Pilot style, with two (2) pockets with button-down flaps and epaulets)

MCL Sunburst collar insignias, centered ½” inside the collar tip, with wings on the emblem parallel to the deck and anchors facing inboard.

Marine Corps League shoulder patch - left sleeve - centered on the sleeve and the top 1½” below the shoulder seam.

U.S. Flag (2” x 3 1/2”) - right sleeve – centered on the sleeve and 1½” below the shoulder seam. The U.S. Flag patch will have a white border and will have the Field of Blue to the wearer's front. The Devil Dog Patch may be worn in place of the U. S. Flag patch if authorized.

Ribbons:

EITHER

Marine Corps League Ribbons

OR

D.O.D. Ribbons, Wings, and Badges

(MCL and DOD Ribbons are NEVER MIXED)

Tie, black, with USMC (enlisted style) or MCL gold tie bar (long sleeve only)

Trousers:

EITHER

Blue Dress with NCO “Red” Stripe with Marine Corps khaki Web Belt with brass buckle (tip 2” to 4” past buckle)

OR

Black trousers with

Black belt with USMC Emblem on square gold

buckle

OR

black dress belt (Ratchet Black Belt from MCL Ship's store is authorized)

Socks, black

Shoes, plain toe, black (military style, highly glossed)

Optional:

Name Tag

Devil Dog Collar when authorized

II. Casual Uniform

Cover, MCL Fore-and-aft, with Devil Dog Patch when authorized

Blazer, Red, two (2) MCL buttons on front and three (3) MCL buttons on each cuff (No ribbons, medals, or badges to be worn with blazer)

Marine Corps League Crest or Bullion Seal over left breast pocket

White dress shirt, plain collar (**NO** button down collars; **NO** sunburst insignia on collar)

Tie, black with USMC (enlisted style) or MCL gold tie bar

Black dress trousers

Black leather belt with USMC Emblem on square gold buckle (Ratchet Black Belt from MCL Ship's Store is authorized)

Socks, black

Shoes, plain toe, black (military style, highly glossed)

Optional

Devil Dog Collar when authorized *OR* Marine of the Year Medallion

A black leather dress belt may be worn as a substitute for the above belt.

Lapel Pins

NO NAMETAG should be worn with this uniform

Note: Up to 3 DOD or Marine Corps League large medals may be worn with this uniform, centered over the left breast pocket of the Red Blazer. Sunburst insignia are NOT worn with this uniform. Marine Corps dress blue trousers are NOT worn with this uniform.

III. Formal Dress Uniform

Cover, MCL Fore-and-aft, with Devil Dog Patch when authorized (Recommended not worn at indoor formal events/ceremonies)

White Tuxedo Shirt, plain collar, pleated (No ruffled front, no wing collars)

Military bow tie, black

Gold cuff links and studs

Gold Cummerbund **OR** Gold Vest front (approved MCL design only)

Jacket:

EITHER

MCL Red Evening Dress Jacket with MCL buttons, gold waist chain, and Sunburst Insignia in locating holes in jacket collar

OR

Red Blazer with Marine Corps League Crest or Bullion Seal over left breast pocket (optional when miniature medals are worn)

Trousers:

EITHER

Black tuxedo pants

OR

Trousers, black, with black dress belt (Ratchet Black Belt from MCL Ship's Store is authorized)

Socks, black

Shoes, plain toe, black (military style, highly glossed)

Optional

Devil Dog Collar when authorized **OR** Marine of the Year Medallion

Miniature medals, wings and badges as prescribed

Notes: Wearing of Miniature Medals - Red Blazer -

Miniature medals may be worn on the left lapel of the Red Blazer with the medals placed evenly between the left lapel notch and the top edge of the breast pocket and one inch (1") out from the edge of the inside of the left lapel. In those instances where regulation-size holding bars cannot be accommodated on the lapel, the miniature medals may be extended beyond the edge of the lapel to the left breast of the Red Blazer.

On the Red Evening Dress Jacket, only miniature medals may be worn.

Female Uniforms

I. Undress Uniform

Cover, MCL Fore-and-aft, male or female style, with Devil Dog Patch when authorized

Shirts:

EITHER (Long-Sleeve)

White long-sleeve shirt, military crease (Airline Pilot style, with two (2) pockets with button-down flaps and epaulets)

OR (Short-Sleeve)

White short-sleeve shirt, open collar, military crease

(Airline Pilot style, with two (2) pockets with button-down flaps and epaulets)

MCL Sunburst collar insignias, centered ½” inside the collar tip, with wings on the emblem parallel to the deck and anchors facing inboard.

Marine Corps League shoulder patch - left sleeve – centered on the sleeve and the top 1½” below the shoulder seam.

U.S. Flag (2” x 3 1/2”) - right sleeve – centered on the sleeve and 1½” below the shoulder seam. The U.S. Flag patch will have a white border and will have the Field of Blue to the wearer's front. The Devil Dog Patch may be worn in place of the U. S. Flag patch if authorized.

Ribbons:

EITHER

Marine Corps League Ribbons

OR

D.O.D. Ribbons, Badges, and Wings (NEVER MIXED)

Tie:

EITHER

Tie, black, cross-over

OR

Tie, black with USMC (NCO type) or MCL gold tie bar

Trousers:

EITHER

Skirt, black, straight (length should be ½” below knees)

OR

Black dress trousers with black leather belt and square gold buckle with Marine Corps emblem

OR

Trousers, Blue Dress with NCO “Red” Stripe and

Marine Corps khaki web belt with brass buckle
(only when in color guard)

Hose, nylon, black (with pumps) or socks, black
(with trousers)

Shoes:

EITHER

Plain closed toe, black pump (with skirt)

OR

Shoes, black, plain closed toe, Women's Oxford
(with trousers)

Optional

Name Tag

Devil Dog Collar when authorized

Earrings, small white pearl (or pearl-like) or gold ball,
not to exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight
against the ear and will not extend below the earlobe.

II. Casual Uniform

Cover, MCL Fore-and-aft, male or female style, with
Devil Dog Patch when authorized

Blazer, Red, (women's style) with two (2) MCL buttons
on front and three (3) MCL buttons on each sleeve cuff.
(No ribbons, medals, or badges to be worn with blazer)

Marine Corps League Crest or Bullion Seal over left
breast pocket (optional)

White dress shirt, plain collar (NO button down collars;
NO sunburst insignia on collar)

Tie:

EITHER

black cross-over (Marine Corps style)

OR

Men's tie, black with USMC or MCL gold tie bar

Trousers/Skirt:

EITHER

Skirt, black, straight (length should be ½” below knees)

OR

Black dress trousers with black leather belt and square gold buckle with Marine Corps emblem or black dress belt.

Hose, nylon, black (with pumps) or socks, black (with trousers)

Shoes:

EITHER

Plain closed toe, black pump (with skirt)

OR

Shoes, black, plain closed toe, Women’s Oxford (with trousers)

Optional

Devil Dog Collar when authorized **OR** Marine of the Year Medallion

Lapel Pins

Earrings, small white pearl (or pearl-like) or gold ball, not to exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight against the ear and will not extend below the earlobe.

NO Nametag should be worn with this uniform

Note: Up to 3 DOD or Marine Corps League large medals may be worn with this uniform, centered over the left breast pocket of the Red Blazer. Sunburst insignia are NOT worn with this uniform. Marine Corps dress blue trousers are NOT worn with this uniform

III. Formal Dress Uniform

Cover – NOT WORN BY WOMEN

White Blouse, formal, pleated (No ruffled front, no wing collars)

Tie:

EITHER

Black satin crossover tie

OR

Military bow tie, black

Gold cuff links and studs

Either Gold Cummerbund or Gold Vest front (approved MCL design only)

Jacket:

EITHER

MCL Red Evening Dress Jacket with MCL buttons, gold waist chain, and Sunburst Insignia in locating holes in jacket collar

OR

Red Blazer with optional Marine Corps League Crest or Bullion Seal over left breast pocket

Trousers/Skirt:

EITHER

Skirt, long, black, ankle length, slit on left side no higher than mid-knee or lower than bottom of knee cap

OR

Trousers, black, dress, with black dress belt

Shoes:

EITHER

Plain closed toe, black pump (with skirt)

OR

Shoes, black, plain closed toe, Women's Oxford (with trousers)

Optional

Devil Dog Collar when authorized **OR** Marine of the Year Medallion

Miniature medals as prescribed

Earrings, small white pearl (or pearl-like) or gold, not to exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight against the ear and will not extend below the earlobe.

Notes: Wearing of Miniature Medals - Red Blazer -

Miniature medals may be worn on the left lapel of the Red Blazer with the medals placed evenly between the left lapel notch and the top edge of the breast pocket and one inch (1") out from the edge of the inside of the left lapel. In those instances where regulation-size holding bars cannot be accommodated on the lapel, the miniature medals may be extended beyond the edge of the lapel to the left breast of the Red Blazer.

On the Red Evening Dress Jacket, only miniature medals may be worn.

Associate Members Uniforms

Associate Members will wear the same uniforms as Members with the following exceptions:

1. An MCL "starburst" insignia will be worn in lieu of the Eagle, Globe and Anchor on the cover. The 1/2" x 1/2" gold "MCL" insignia will be worn on the shirt collars.
2. The patch for the right sleeve (U. S. Flag) may be worn.
3. The MCL "Associate" patch will be worn on the left sleeve 1 1/2" below the seam
4. No blazer crest will be worn unless one is approved

by a National Convention.

5. The Dress Blue Trousers may be worn, but without the Red “NCO” Stripe.

Ribbon and Medal Precedence – The available MCL and Devil Dog ribbons and their precedence are shown at the website

http://www.mcleague.com/mdp/pdf/bylaws/MCL_Ribbons_Order_of_Precedence.pdf, (You will need to put on all one line to access.)

Where to Buy Uniforms by Phone or Internet - Some uniform items can be ordered through the Marine Corps League's Semper Fi Store. The telephone number is (800) 625-1775; the website, *www.mcleague.com*. Another source is the The Marine Shop in Quantico, VA. Their toll-free telephone number is (877) 640-7195; their website, *www.marineshop.com*. Items such as the Blue Trousers and NCO Stripe (or “blood stripe”) may be ordered through the Marine Corps Exchange. Contact your Detachment Commandant or one of the other officers for assistance if needed.

WEB SITES

U. S. Marine Corps

<http://www.marines.mil>

Marine Corps League

<http://www.mcleague.com>

Southeast Division, MCL

<http://www.sediv.org>

Department of Georgia, MCL

<http://www.mcldeptofga.org>

Marine for Life

<http://www.marineforlife.org>

MCL Subsidiaries

Marine Corps League Auxiliary

<http://www.nationalmcla.org>

Marines Helping Marines

<http://www.marineshelpingmarines.org>

Young Marines

<http://www.youngmarines.com>

Marine Corps League Foundation

<http://www.mclfoundation.org>

Youth Physical Fitness Program

<http://www.marineyouthfoundation.org>

Military Order of Devil Dogs

<http://www.moddkennel.org>

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

MISSION STATEMENT

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of:

✦ Preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps,

✦ Banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy,

✦ Voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and former Marines and FMF Corpsmen, and to their widows and orphans; and

✦ To perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and, by fitting acts, to observe the anniversaries of historical occasion of particular interest to Marines.